

Appln. No. 10/680,368
Amdt. dated April 11, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed February 1, 2007

REMARKS

The above-identified application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on February 1, 2007. By the present amendment, the applicants have canceled claims 1-13 and 21-23. Claims 14-20 remain in the pending application. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims, namely claims 14-20, are fully supported by the specification, introduce no new matter, and are patentable over the prior art.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-13 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,432,121 to Jervis ("Jervis") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,925,858 to Smith et al. ("Smith"). In the interest of furthering prosecution, the applicants have canceled claims 1-13 and 21-23 without prejudice or disclaiming claim scope. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of the Office Action be withdrawn.

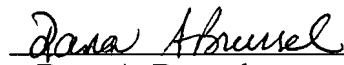
The applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 14-20 are allowable. The applicants have canceled claims 1-13 and 21-23 to place the application in condition for allowance.

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Prompt and favorable action on the pending claims, namely claims 14-20, is earnestly requested. Should the Examiner desire a telephonic interview to resolve any outstanding matters, the Examiner is sincerely invited to contact the undersigned at (631) 501-5713.

Respectfully submitted,

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